

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SOE-02
AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
NASA-02 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07
SS-15 NRC-07 /161 W
-----110903 080943Z /13

O 071026Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2073
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8868

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC TECH IN
SUBJECT: G.KM REDDY ARTICLE ON NUCLEAR TESTS BY INDIA

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEWDELHI FROM MADRAS JUN 07 RPEATED:

QUOTE

MADRAS 0925

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN
UBJECT: G.K. REDDY ARTICLE ON NUCLEAR TESTS BY INDIA

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF G.K.REEDY ARTICLE APPEARING IN
JUNE 7 HNDU TITLED: "NUCLEAR TESTS: INDIA TO ABJURE RIGHT."

BEGIN TEXT.
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AS PART OF HIS HIGH MORAL PURPOSE,THE PRIME MINISTER,
MRM MORARJI DESAI, IS TAKIN UPON HIMSELF THE ONEROUS
RESPONIBILITY OF COMMITTING INDIA TO A PERMANENT RENUNCIATION
OF THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT FURTHER NUCLEAR TESTS EVEN FOR
PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

THOUGH HE HAS SAID SO EARLIER IN HIS REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT AND AT PRESS CONFERENCES, MORE IN TERMS OF SELFRESTRAINT THAN AS A SOLEMN DECLARATION OF POLICY ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, MR. DESAI WILL BE MAKING A FORMAL COMMITMENT TO THIS EFFECT IN HIS ADDRESS LATER THIS WEEK TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE U.N. ASSEMBLY ON DISARMAMENT.

A CATEGORICAL DECLARATION OF THIS NATURE BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM WILL MAKE THIS UNILATERAL COMMITMENT-- NOT ONLY REAFFIRMING HE PLEDGE NOT TO MAKE OR ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT ALSO ABJURING TESTS EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES-- WOULD MAKE IT ALL THE MORE BINDING TO INDIA THAN THE EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ANY FURTHER EXPLOSIONS. IT IS ONE THING TO SAY THAT INDIA HAD NO INTENTION AT ALL OF CONDUCTING ANY MORE TEST FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE, BUT ANOTHER THING TO MAKE A DELIBERATE POLICY STATEMENT COMMITTING THE COUNTRY FOR ALL TIME.

THE PRIME MINISTER READ OUT THE TEXT OF HIS ADDRESS TO THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE CABINET ON SUNDAY ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE. IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY DISAPPROVAL BY HIS COLLEAGUES, THE MERE FACT THAT THE CABINET WAS TAKEN INTO CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE SPEECH AMOUNTED TO AN ENDORSEMENT OF IT IN THE ABSENCE OF A FORMAL RESOLUTION SEEKING ITS ACCEPTANCE. IN ANY CASE, THIS IS MUCH TOO SERIOUS AN ISSUE WHICH WOULD

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HAVE NORMALLY CALLED FOR NOT ONLY PRIOR CABINET APPROVAL BUT ALSO A FULL DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT, BEFORE MAKING SUCH AN IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT OR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

THE UNILATERAL PLEDGE NOT TO MAKE OR ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ALONG WITH THE RENUNCIATION OF THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT ANY MORE TESTS EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, SHOULD MEET THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) WHICH INDIA HAS SO FAR NOT SIGNED ON GROUNDS OF DISCRIMINATION. IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL APPEAL TO THE NUCLEAR-WEAPON POWERS TO FOLLOW THE INDIAN EXAMPLE OF SELF-RESTRAINT AND AGREE ON A COMPRE-

HENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) EVEN IF IT BE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AS A STARTING POINT FOR THE PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION AND EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF THEIR NUCLEAR STOCKPILES.

THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE INDIAN POLICY OF ABNEGATION, COMBINING THE IMPERATIVES OF PRACTICAL POLITICS WITH HIGH MORAL PURPOSE, IS TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE ON THE SAFEGUARDS QUESTION. THE SELF-DENYING STAND OVER THE

EXERCISE OF THE NUCLEAR OPTION, IT IS ARUED, WILL ENABLE
INDIA TO ADOPT A TOUGHER ATTITUDE IN INSISTING ON
U.S. AHERENCE TO ITS CONTRATUAL OBLIGATIONS TO SUPPLY
ENRICHEDURANIUM FOR THE TARAPUR PLANT.THE PRIME MINISTER'S
SPEECH AT THE U.N. SPECIAL SESSION,SPELLING OUT THE
BROAD PRINCIPLES OF INDIA' NUCLEAR POLICY, IS INTENDED TO
SET THE TONE FOR HISDISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL
LEADERS AND THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON THE
FUEL QUESTION.

BUT THE HARD-LINERS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ARE APPARENTLY
NOT SATISFIED WITH THE MERE RENUCIATION OF THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT
FURTHERTESTS WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING STEPS TO GIVE GREATER
CREDIBILITY TO INDIANS ABJURATION. THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT
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FORMTHE INDIAN ASSURANCES WOULD TAKE FOR MEETING THE SAFEGUARD
REQUIREMENTS, WHAT BASIS THERE WAS FOR ASSUMING THAT ANY
FUTURE GOVERNMENT IN INDIA WOULD NOT GO BACK ON THIS
UNILATERAL COMMITMENT,WHETHER INDIA WOULD TURN OVER TO
INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AND INSPECTION ITS EXISTING PLUTONIUM
STOCKS AND OTHER FISSIONABLE MATERIALS THAT MIGHT BE GENERATED
FROM ITS NUCLEAR POGRAMMES IN FUTURE, AND WHETHER I WOULD
AGREE TO A REVISIONOF ITS BUDGETARY AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES
FOR PERANENTLY ABANDONING THE CAPABLITY TO EXERCISE THE
OPTION IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. END TEXT
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UNQUOTE
BOOD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR TESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE08868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780239-0547
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780686/aaaacwbx.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37355e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2455163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: G.KM REDDY ARTICLE ON NUCLEAR TESTS BY INDIA FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEWDELHI FROM MADRAS JUN 07 RPEATED:
QUOTE
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, SOPN, IN
To: ISLAMABAD USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37355e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014